Yesterday, Justin Trudeau officially resigned from his position as leader of the Liberal Party and Prime Minister.

However, this resignation will not take effect immediately, meaning that the Liberal Party of Canada will need to go through a leadership race in order to select his successor.

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Before introducing the prospective candidates, I would first like to put my selections within some context:

Since Parliament is prorogued until March 24, the election date for this leadership race will likely fall before the return of Parliament, as the NDP has indicated that they will vote no-confidence in the government when Parliament resumes.

This leaves a short window in which a new leader is to be selected, which probably helps contenders that have name recognition and a pre-existing base of support within the party.

The Liberal Party's rule that non-citizens can vote in leadership races, meanwhile, could probably propel candidates that embrace various sectarian or niche interest groups.

It is also worth mentioning that the Liberal Party uses a ranked ballot for their leadership elections, meaning that the candidate who wins the plurality of first-choice votes is not necessarily guaranteed to win.

In order to establish which potential candidates matter more than others, it makes sense to create a hierarchy within which candidates will fall. The upper tier will be occupied by contenders with high levels of name recognition and an actual chance of winning; the mid-tier will feature candidates that could sound enticing on paper and might have a slim chance of winning, but under most circumstances won't prevail over the others. Finally, the bottom rungs will be occupied by also-rans who either have little name recognition or no base of support within the existing party.

I'll also include the percentage of the vote I expect each candidate to receive on first ballot.

With all of this in mind, let's get into the (potential) candidates!

The Upper Tier

Chrystia Freeland

The former Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister has long been rumored to be a potential successor to Trudeau, and enjoys broad support among the current Liberal base.

Indeed, the small amount of polls done on preferences for a future Liberal leader have all had Chrystia Freeland leading.

Despite this presumed frontrunner status, however, there are potential pitfalls that her candidacy could fall into.

One is her close connection to Justin Trudeau.

Chrystia Freeland was Trudeau's first star candidate, as she returned to Canada to run in a Toronto by-election just months after he took the helm of the party. Since then, she has served in a myriad of Cabinet portfolios in his government, including International Trade (2015-2017), Foreign Affairs (2017-2019), Intergovernmental Affairs (2019-2020), Finance (2020-2024) and Deputy Prime Minister (2019-2024). This closeness with the current government means that she is either directly responsible for, has publicly defended, or is complicit in every unpopular and disastrous decision that Trudeau has made.

With Trudeau's popularity in the toilet, such strong associations with the current PM will likely not be helpful for a party that is on the brink of complete and total collapse.

Chrystia Freeland's other main weakness concerns her communications skills. Despite having formerly been a journalist for prominent outlets such as Reuters and the Financial Times *and* now having over a decade of political experience under her belt, Freeland has repeatedly shown herself to be bad at connecting with people in a way that does not come off as elitist or condescending (for instance, consider her infamous Disney Plus gaffe).

This is will likely impair her ability to sell party memberships and receive votes from those outside the existing Liberal base.

It will also dampen her chances of even saving the furniture during a federal election, an environment where poor skills in retail politics can doom a candidate.

Despite these flaws, her long tenure in cabinet and status as a member of the internationalist elite will make her the frontrunner in this race.

I suspect that, if she were to run, she would receive 40-50% of the vote on first ballot.

Mark Carney

The former governor of both the Bank of England and the Bank of Canada, Mark Carney has long been seen by the Laurentian Elite and political chattering class as a future Liberal leader.

With the Liberals having firmly established themselves as the party of the globalist managerial elite, Mark Carney gains his position as the

second member of the upper tier of candidates simply by being the epitome of that class of people.

He even manages to out-elite Chrystia Freeland.

However, there are drawbacks.

The most obvious problem Carney faces is that he lacks any political experience whatsoever.

While Chrystia Freeland may not be especially gifted at retail politics, she at least has experience managing government departments and dealing with attacks from political foes.

For Carney, learning the ropes of political communication to the degree where he could pull off a win against Freeland in less than three months may prove to be a daunting challenge.

The other major flaw with Carney is the striking parallels between his life and Freeland's. Both of them grew up in Edmonton, both of them attended Harvard and Oxford, both of them lived in London and New

York at various times in their lives, both them are members of the World Economic Forum….the list goes on.

These similarities with the perceived frontrunner could dampen Mark Carney's elite credentials, and make him seem like a male version of Chrystia Freeland minus the political experience.

On first ballot, Mark Carney would likely win 25-35% of the vote.

The Middle Tier

Anita Anand

Anita Anand's name is one that consistently makes it onto lists of prospective Liberal leadership candidates.

On paper, it's not hard to see why.

Anita Anand is a law professor who has held academic positions at Yale, Queen's, Western, and U of T.

She has also held a string of cabinet positions in the Trudeau government since 2019, including Minister of Public Services and Procurement (2019-2021), National Defense (2021-2023), President of the Treasury Board (2023-2024), and currently serves as Minister of Transport.

Anita Anand would also be the first woman of colour to lead the Liberal Party if she won, which likely gives her a boost considering identity politics obsessions the Liberals have been wrapped in for at least a decade.

Why then, do you ask, is she not considered a top contender like Freeland and Carney?

Although many potential explanations come to mind, the most obvious is that she lacks any natural base of support within the party. The only constituency that would seemingly be well-suited for, the professional-managerial elite, is already cornered by Freeland and Carney.

And despite being a practicing Hindu, Anand has shown little interest in courting diaspora groups during her time in politics. This shuts off another potential avenue for her to gain a base of support, as ethnic and religious minority groups are often chased after by leadership election candidates who don't have a great depth of support among existing members of a party.

Anita Anand will probably win around 10% on first ballot if she runs.

Dominic LeBlanc

His father was Governor General of Canada and a Cabinet Minister in Pierre Trudeau's government. He baby-sat Justin Trudeau when he was growing up. He recently made headlines when he stayed at a mansion owned by the billionaire Irving family. Enough said?

Dominic LeBlanc is the epitome of the old-guard Liberal insider, which both raises and lowers his chances in this race.

On one hand, his long political career (he was first election to the House of Commons in 2000), extensive experience in cabinet, and powerful family connections give him a natural constituency among those who have been Liberals for decades and are looking for a steady hand at the wheel after the chaos of Trudeau.

On the other hand, his brand of moderate (at least compared to Trudeau), Laurentian-oriented Liberalism seems at odds with a party that has grown increasingly far-left and identitarian over the past decade.

LeBlanc should wind up with anywhere between 10-15% of votes cast on first ballot.

Melanie Joly

Although this list is supposed to be a politically neutral exercise in determining who could (briefly) end up as Canada's next Prime Minister, I will shed that neutrality for a second here and express my distaste with Melanie Joly.

There are many Liberals out there who I personally find insufferable. But my god, does Joly rub me the wrong way.

Before entering politics, Melanie Joly was a lawyer. She supposedly has a master's level law degree from Oxford - yet not a single thing that has ever some out of her mouth has ever struck me as being insightful, thoughtful, or intelligent.

In the first few years of the Trudeau government, Joly held a series of low-level cabinet positions, including Canadian Heritage, Official Languages, and Tourism. But in 2021 she got a big upgrade to….wait for it….Foreign Affairs!!!!

If you can find anything in her resume that made her qualified for that position, please let me know. Because I, for the love of god, cannot. Perhaps sychophantry counts as a qualification according to Justin Trudeau.

And to add insult to the injury, Marc Garneau (former astronaut and head of the Canadian Space Agency) was punted from Foreign Affairs position so she could take over. Let that sink in for a moment.

After assuming the Foreign Affairs position, Joly has gained notoriety for her timid, equivocal, and incoherent stance on the Israel-Hamas conflict in the face rising antisemitism.

In fact, Joly's tepid response to pro-Hamas demonstrations prompted Pierre Poilievre accused her of pandering to Hamas supporters as part of a future leadership bid.

In spite of all this, Melanie Joly's name keeps coming up as a potential leadership contestant. But why?

Quebec.

If an election were held today, the popular poll aggregator 338Canada projects that Liberals would win just 35 seats in the House of Commons. And out of those 35 seats, a whopping 19, or 54%, would be in Quebec.

By selecting Melanie Joly, Liberals would be shoring up their support in a province that could decide whether they win something approximating 40 seats or are instead reduced to a minivan caucus lacking official party status.

And if you haven't noticed, Melanie Joly is a woman, which would lend her more credibility than say Francois-Phillipe Champagne in the intersectional matrix

Apparently, being from *La Belle Province*, having a vagina, and pandering to Hamas supporters can make a vacuous sycophant qualified to be Prime Minister. Who knew?

Depressingly enough, Melanie Joly will somehow end up with around 10% of the vote on first ballot.

Francois-Phillipe Champagne

He's a lawyer from Shawinigan who's held multiple cabinet positions and wants to be Prime Minister. Oh, and his last name starts with a "C".

By all accounts, Champagne is basically the reincarnation of Jean Chretien, except he has yet to perform the Shawinigan Handshake.

He no doubt has the energy and ambition to be Prime Minister.

But does he have the base of support needed to win the leadership first?

He’ll have to compete with LeBlanc in the Francophone Centrist category, and with Melanie Joly in the Quebecois category.

Which doesn’t really leave him with a lot of ground to claim as his own.

And unlike Melanie Joly, who’ll have some success among the anglophone Hamasniks, he’ll most likely be completely irrelevant outside of Quebec.

I give Francois-Phillipe Champagne 5-10% on first ballot

The Bottom Rung

Christy Clark

There's always a shameless opportunist, eh?

The last time I heard from Christy Clark, she was endorsing Jean Charest to head to federal Conservative Party.

And now, just two years later, she's considering a run for the leadership of the federal….Liberal Party???

Clark was a relatively centrist premier of BC. Her father was a delegate for noted Blue Liberal John Turner. Yet the centrist position in this leadership race will probably be filled by the likes of LeBlanc and Champagne, with Carney's economic credentials likely making him appealing to these sorts of voters as well.

This leaves little room for Clark, who also lacks the long-standing connections to the federal Liberal Party and French fluency of LeBlanc and Champagne.

Not to mention that the centrist wing of the Liberals has drastically shrunk over the last decade.

Indeed, one is left to wonder why exactly Clark is even considering a run?

One must look to the Artist Formerly Known as Twitter for clues.

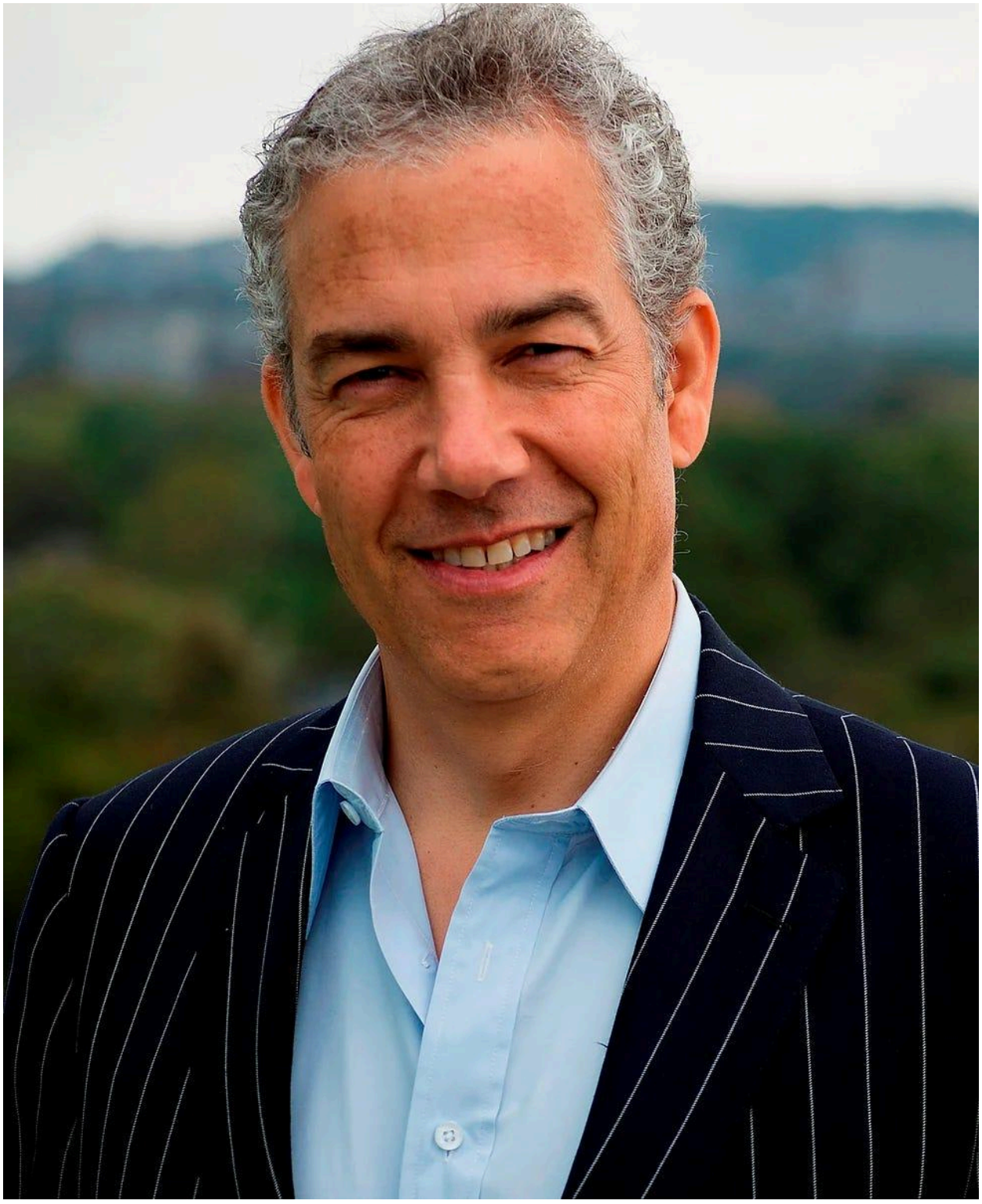
On X yesterday, Clark said that now is the "biggest opportunity in over a decade that we've had to grow our Party and welcome new Liberals".

So maybe she's delusional? Or an opportunist? or both?

When Christy Clark's ex-husband Mark Marissen ran for mayor of Vancouver in 2022, he won a measly 3.47% of the vote. I expect that Christy Clark will finish this race with a percentage of the vote roughly approximating that of her ex.

Frank Baylis?

Apparently Grok doesn't know what Frank Baylis looks like. And until I googled him, I didn't either.



This, by the way, is what Frank Baylis *actually* looks like, in case you didn't know. Which you probably didn't.

Judging by people's reactions on X, I'm not the only Canadian political junkie who didn't know Frank Baylis' name when he declared his candidacy yesterday (as of me writing this, he is the *only* declared candidate).

But I - and many others - would be forgiven for not knowing who Baylis is.

He was a *backbench* MP from Montreal during Trudeau's first term.

Oh, and his company Baylis Medical got a contract to provide ventilators during the pandemic (which was investigated by the ethics commissioner for potential conflict-of-interest).

Baylis will, in a likelihood, finish with less than 5% of the vote on first ballot.